



Kyiv, Ukraine (July 12, 2012) – This year 87 young Ukrainians received the certificates for participation in the Internship Program. The certificates were awarded by Deputy Secretary General of the Verkhovna Rada Dmytro Markov and U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in Ukraine Eric T. Schultz. This year marks the 17th year of operation of the Parliamentary Internship program and the 4th year of the Executive Internship program, both through the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“The United States is proud of its support to the Parliamentary and Executive Internship Program through our USAID Parliamentary Development Program. Thanks to continued collaboration with the Verkhovna Rada and the Interns’ League, this program continues to provide a unique opportunity for young people to engage in the daily opportunities and challenges of the democratic policy making process in Ukraine,” said in his speech U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Eric Schultz.

Director of the Internship Alumni Association Interns’ League Valeriya Sobakar who completed the program in 2009-2010 also greeted the interns completing the program this year and expressed her thanks to the Government of the United States, USAID and the Staff of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for providing support to the program through its first 17 years.

During the past eight months, students and recent graduates from almost all regions of Ukraine worked in 28 parliamentary committees and departments as well as in five ministries of Ukraine and one state agency. During the internship, interns took part in drafting laws, organized public hearings, committee meetings and round-table discussions; they studied subjects like public policy analysis, gender policy, rules of procedure, legislative mechanisms and law drafting. Interns also met with prominent Ukrainian politicians, decision-makers and foreign experts on a weekly basis. Each year, almost half of those completing the Internship program continue their careers with civil service and public service, many of whom join the staff of the Verkhovna

Rada.